



**Present (via Zoom):** Angela Youngerberg, Phil Claussen, Barb Dietz, Chera Sevcik, Suzi Nerison, Sue Rynda, Cassie Sassenberg, Klea Rettmann, Naomi Ochsendorf

**Others Present:** Amy Haas, Jamie Hayes, Teri Herder-Blahnik

Acting Chair, Sue Rynda, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Klea Rettmann moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2021 meeting. Cassie Sassenberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda:** Chera Sevcik moved to approve the agenda. Barb Dietz seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**January Vendor Report:** Jamie pointed out a \$378.67 expense for MHC Supervisor health and life insurance (.25) even though there is no one in the position right now. Angie will follow up with Tracey about the expense. Other unique expenses in January: \$2,836.69 for Meeting Owls, an MCIT insurance payment of \$8,522, and annual allocations of \$20K for each of the three 501(c)(3) clubhouses. No Crisis Grant expenses were paid in January. Barb Dietz moved to approve the January Vendor Report. Suzi Nerison seconded. Motion carried.

**February RMT Report, Amy Haas:** Amy reported on the February 11<sup>th</sup> RMT meeting.

- Amy and Teri led an icebreaker “Mad Lib” story activity about RMT Meeting Brainstorming.
- Amy gave the JPB Report.
- **Priorities Exercise** – The results of the Priorities Exercise were reviewed. Areas of differences in some rankings between RMT and JPB were noted. The differences were expected due to differences in the composition of the two groups. Results in 2019 included a broader perspective because the exercise was also completed by clubhouse members, Coordinators and Case Managers.
- **RMT Goals 2021** – RMT Goals, along with JPB recommendations, were reviewed. The SET Committee will start meeting again in March. They will look at expanding their footprint and planning alternate activities, trainings, and other endeavors in lieu of the Stakeholders Meeting and Fall Conference. In reviewing JPB recommendations, the RMT determined that a couple of their goal recommendations fell outside the purview of RMT (Children’s Crisis Residential, RFP’s).
- **10-County Networking Plan** – RMT reviewed the 10-County Networking activities plan and budget. Keeping in mind that flexibility will need to be maintained due to possible unforeseen COVID-related circumstances, the RMT approved for submission to the JPB the 10-County Activity Budget submitted by Lynda Devine on behalf of all Clubhouse Coordinators.
- **Transportation Discussion** – Secure, humane transportation needs for people discharged from hospitals located outside of the SCCBI area were discussed. It is difficult to find secure transportation, and it is also very expensive. Insurance does not pay for unloaded miles, leaving counties responsible for payment. Many counties must contract with law enforcement and pay large fees for transportation.
- **Reports** – Q4 Budget Reports and the Q4 Psychiatric Allocation Report were reviewed. Angie Youngerberg spoke about AMHI and CSP grant reductions. Crisis Committee and Integrated Services Committee Reports were given.
- **“Does Not Meet Criteria” Conversation** – Discussion was held about “Does Not Meet Criteria” situations with the CBHH system. Angie Youngerberg announced that she recently learned the State has been doing Continuous Quality Improvement projects (over 80 projects so far) and that she is requesting a CQI Project around the situations with the CBHH system. She will be attending a meeting about it next week.

\*JPB responded to the Transportation Discussion item in Amy’s RMT report. They felt this was something that the RMT should discuss further and then return with a regional solution/plan that the JPB could possibly support. Phil Claussen made a motion directing the RMT to form a committee or sub-committee to complete a county-by-county Transportation Needs Assessment and then formulate a regional solution addressing the

problem of secure transportation across the region and statewide. Naomi Ochsendorf seconded. Motion carried. Jamie will reach out to AMH Supervisors for elements to include in the Needs Assessment.

**Fiscal Monitoring 2020 – Eide Bailly Report:** JPB members reviewed Eide Bailly’s 2020 fiscal monitoring report. There were no major findings for any provider. Page three of the report lists the counties, providers, and the number of items reviewed for each. Eide Bailly has been alternating quarters reviewed each year. Jamie will share the full spreadsheet with the Executive Committee.

**Q4 2020 Budget Report:**

- **AMHI** – Jamie reported that the grant was 100% spent at the end of 2020. We were able to fund both funding requests from Freeborn County and provide a little extra money for counties who overspent their staffing allocations. Jamie explained that the Revenue line item “Other-Reserves” shows the money coming in from the Crisis Grant to reimburse AMHI for 25% of Jamie’s position. Jamie also noted that AMHI Flexible Funds were only 58% spent at the end of the year.
- **Mobile Crisis Services Grant** – The Mobile Crisis Grant budget is completed by Rice County and includes a revenue line item designating 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payments (MA-Insurance). Those are not revenues received by the SCCBI, and they need to be subtracted from total revenues and expenses to get the actual grant totals. The grant was fully spent by October. Going forward, funds were pulled from the Appropriation to cover expenses.
- **Residential Crisis Grant (Appropriation)** – The 2020 appropriation was fully spent. Budget line item expenditures for Crisis Center and Crisis Transportation were underspent, but Crisis Flex was overspent due to technology purchases. “Other” expenditures encompassed Mobile Crisis and regional telepresence. Some funds from the 2019 grant remained unspent at the end of the year and were returned to DHS.

**Q4 2020 Psych Allocation Report:** Reminder: Although reported in Q1 2021, Q4 numbers are from the last quarter of 2020. Overall spending of the allocation shows that it is 21.5% spent. Regular/Premium Psych is 20.98% spent, and Urgent Care is 23.7% spent. The goal at this point is to be 25% spent. Sioux Trails already spent 57.24% of their Urgent Care allocation. Suzi Nerison reported that Freeborn County MHC will be billing at 25% so that funds can be drawn from the allocation the entire year. A huge challenge for the clinic has been the large increase in utilization. They are also seeing an increase in first-time clients (potentially from as far away as Austin) most likely due to the closure of outpatient mental health services at Mayo Health System in Albert Lea. FCMHC is the only psychiatric provider in Freeborn County.

**Planning for 2021: 10-County Networking and Stakeholders:**

**10-County Networking** – Jamie reported that she met with Nicollet and BEC Clubhouse Coordinators prior to their planning the 10-County Networking budget proposal. She wanted to share that, unlike previous years, a formal presentation to RMT and JPB would not be required and that there would be flexibility allowed in their planning and budget. The 10-County Activity Budget submitted by Lynda Devine on behalf of all CH Coordinators includes language that the activities are tentative and may be subject to change due to the pandemic. Variables include: Covid-19 infection rates, vaccination levels of members and staff, current CDC guidelines on group gatherings, and the number of people able to be safely transported at one time. Coordinators have discussed contingency plans to accommodate the unpredictability of the future as it concerns Covid-19. Some “cancelled” activities that were pre-paid last year will be carried over to 2021. They include:

- MoonDogs Game – July 14, 2021
- Heritage Horses – September 2021
- Sea Life at MOA – November/December 2021

**Proposed 10 County Activities for 2021 • \$7,000 Budget**

- Winter/Spring 2021 Craft Supply Allocation  
\$1,800.00 (\$200.00 per clubhouse)
- April 7, 2021. 1:30pm: Virtual Historical Speaker held via Zoom at individual Clubhouses  
\$625.00, catered lunches (\$69.40 per clubhouse). Speaker fee paid by County Connection Clubhouse.
- July 2021: Watonwan Picnic  
\$500.00 Shelter Rental and catered lunch
- August 2021: Rice County Picnic

- \$500.00 Shelter Rental and catered lunch
- September 2021: Portapotty Rental for Heritage Horses  
\$500.00 (2 Potties)
- October 2021: Halloween Party  
\$1,075.00: Hall rental, catered lunch, prizes
- November 2021: Theatre play at Minnesota State, Mankato  
\$1,500.00
- December 2021: Year-End Mixer  
\$500.00 Catered Meal

Total = \$7,000.00

Jamie, RMT and JPB will be notified if there are any changes to the plan. Jamie also explained to the Coordinators that any unspent dollars due to changes/cancellations are not guaranteed to remain available for them to spend at a later date. Barb Dietz moved to approve the tentative 2021 10-County Activity Budget. Naomi Ochsendorf seconded. Motion Carried.

**Stakeholders Meeting** – Jamie reported on her conversation with Claudia Hicks, Event Sales/Services Coordinator at Mayo Event Center, regarding event alternatives and safety measures provided by the event center free of charge. Even with safety measures in place, Jamie had to cancel the April Stakeholders Meeting because we are not able to provide safe transportation for all attendees. The RMT discussed options/alternatives to the typical Stakeholder Meeting, such as a webinar or pre-recorded presentations to be shown to small groups at the clubhouses. There was a lot of concern about the number of stakeholders who lack technology and/or the tech savvy to access or participate in virtual presentations. The SET Committee will resume meetings in March to discuss and plan alternate activities. Sue Rynda suggested hosting a Zoom speaker on the original April 15 Stakeholder Meeting date. She added that instead of coordinating transportation, CH Coordinators could coordinate the technology including breakout groups to allow individuals to connect with one another.

**2020 Commitment Petition Information:** Jamie shared a PowerPoint of SCCBI County pre-petition information tracking for 2020.

- Information tracked = filed petitions only, county, type of petition, and outcome of petition. At this time, SCCBI is not tracking discharge location, revocations, and other more detailed information.
- Tracking of total petitions filed in SCCBI counties started in 2017. There was an 18% increase in petitions filed between 2019 & 2020.
- 2019-2020 SCCBI County Commitment Court outcomes saw an increase in more restrictive outcomes and a decrease in less restrictive alternatives. There was a 9.1% increase in full commitments w/Jarvis, and 13.8% increase in full commitments w/out Jarvis. Stays of Commitment decreased 31.8%, Continuance for Dismissals decreased 1.1%, and Dismissals decreased by 4.6%.
- Additional data included in the PowerPoint: Types of petitions filed & petitions filed by month in 2019 and 2020; Instances of petitions filed that have a Rule 20; Total petitions filed by county; County-specific data.

**Administrative Assistant Position:** SCCBI contracts with a temp. agency, Express Employment Professionals, for the part-time (15 hours/week) SCCBI Administrative Assistant position. This position has received the same \$16.06 hourly wage provided when the position originally started in January 2018. Jamie expressed that she wants to make sure the position is fairly compensated. Discussion ensued to encompass two separate areas: 1) the “temporary” designation of the position and 2) fair compensation.

- 1) **Is this a temporary position?** – How long can the “temporary” designation be used if the position is to remain for the long-term? Do we need to look at contracting with a different 3<sup>rd</sup> party employer? What do other counties do? If the AMHI grant is cut, can funds be pulled from the Crisis Grant to cover a portion of the position?
- 2) **Compensation** – The general consensus was that the Administrative Assistant position has been very valuable and should be recognized and valued. But several questions remain. How much do other counties pay their part-time staff? Do their part-time staff receive prorated benefits? How often (if at all) do part-time staff receive raises or annual cost-of-living increases?

When asked for her thoughts about the position, the Administrative Assistant responded that she hopes to see high-quality work performance and the value of the position to the SCCBI reflected by the Initiative in the form of a fair compensation package that includes opportunities for raises and a more generous PTO accrual rate. The Board concluded that the initial short-term Administrative Assistant position needs long-term planning. Jamie was directed to put together a proposal or two to address and support the position, looking specifically at wage and then maybe at temp status. Jamie will research county wage amounts and try to track down the Employee Handbooks for all SCCBI counties to compare how counties compensate part-time employees.

**Proposed Behavioral Health Grant Reductions and MACSSA Position Statement:** Governor Walz's budget proposal recommends a 6% reduction in AMHI and CSP grants, but the State did not provide information about where the cuts would be. Logic tells us that we will see a major cut to our grant. MACSSA originally took the position of, "Do no harm. Do not cut AMHI funding." They have since adopted a new position, "Put more money into AMHI." Possible action steps that the JPB could take on behalf of the region were discussed. They included:

- Do nothing.
- Push ideas and suggestions to MACSSA and MICA.
- Push agenda for new money. If awarded, Request DHS to show how new money will be distributed. Point out that awarding grant funds based solely on county population or MHIS data does not create equity. Even with new money, SCCBI still stands to lose grant funds. The solution should be based on the programs and services regions/counties provide...looking at programs/services already established and perhaps identifying the resources and services that will be lost if funds are cut.

**Decision** – JPB will write a letter to MACSSA proposing they take the following action steps/proposals:

- With the infusion of new money, no initiative should lose money from current grant amount
- If a population-based formula is adopted, it must include a rural factor.
- Allow a percentage of grant revenue to be placed into reserves (up to a certain amount) to maintain cashflow. Allow a percentage of funds to carry over to each new quarter to address payment of expenses accrued during the preceding quarter.
- Obtain assurance from DHS guaranteeing timely payments/disbursements of grant funds.
- Be more specific about where/what we would need to cut from our budget line items, programs and services/supports if AMHI funds are cut.
- Point out the irrationality of cutting MH funding when there is increasing community need for MH services due to the pandemic.
- Include the message: "A vote to cut funding for Adult Mental Health Initiatives is a vote to re-institutionalize Minnesotans."

Due to DHS staff turnover, a packet of documents proving the effectiveness of SCCBI programs and services will be attached to the letter. Suggested documents to attach to the letter include Jamie's Crisis Services Report, information from the Mental Health Awareness Campaign, among other relevant documents.

As there was no further business, Naomi Ochsendorf moved to adjourn the meeting, and Chera Sevcik seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

**Next JPB Meeting:**

Friday, March 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Teri Herder-Blahnik, Administrative Assistant, SCCBI